MARCH 12, 2017  |  SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastor
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frmike.byron@stpascals.org

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MASS TIMES
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 8:45 & 10:30 am (ASL)
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 7:30 am
Wednesday - 9:30 am
I have written here before (and recently) about the ambiguous nature of symbolic communication. It’s because symbols themselves don’t necessarily "mean" any one thing to the people who encounter them. There’s a rich and good side to that fact, which our Catholic faith has acknowledged and celebrated from the beginning. For example, what does water "mean"? Well, it will vary quite a bit depending upon whether you are dying of thirst in the desert, or getting baptized, or whether a tsunami is about to come ashore. What does fire "mean"? One thing if it’s happening in your living room, and something quite different if it’s happening in a pit at a camp site or at the Easter Vigil in church. We use symbols in religious rituals all the time precisely because they can touch our souls so variously and at so many different levels. We also use them in civil society. What does the flag of the United States of America "mean"? Not the same thing at a Twins game, a VFW hall, or an ISIS burning protest in Syria. What does just standing in silence "mean"? One thing at a funeral, and something else on a freeway at a Black Lives Matter protest. Symbols require our engagement with them in order for us to wrestle with the question of what exactly they are seeking to express. Even something as simple as a smile can be variously understood depending on the context.

So it was that I saw on the front page of both Twin Cities’ daily newspapers on the day after Ash Wednesday feature stories about a few local Christian congregations which had engaged in "Ashes to Go," or drive-thru ashing rituals for people in passing cars, at bus stops, or in coffee shops to experience at the hands of robed church ministers. I have to admit that my first and enduring reaction was deep disappointment and irritation. It is still my reaction now. But it did force me to ask myself where that gut response was coming from. In part I am aware that it springs from an awareness that a traditionally very Catholic symbolic act has been adopted quite recently by some other Christian denominations and almost immediately cheapened or commodified by some of them. Drive-thru ashes: That’s tragic. But I had to clarify why I felt that way, and that drew me back to the bigger question: What do these symbolic acts "mean"?

Without realizing it, I’m sure, the author of the story in one of the newspapers helped me to answer that. It spoke of “a recent trend to bring this religious ritual out of the church and into the streets.” But such rituals don’t necessarily mean the same thing when they are transposed from one venue to another, because they aren’t just "things." They are symbols that depend on a context in order to express their meaning(s). The paper said that "Ashes to Go" is seen by some as "an important way to reach busy parents and workers who don’t have the time to attend a religious service and receive ashes there." OK. But could it also be that this symbol of ashes is meant to challenge such people to question why they are too busy to engage with any sort of Christian community as part of their religious practice? What sort of symbol is it that is worn as an emblem for all to see but doesn’t point to any sort of commitment other than one’s ordinary everyday routine? My Catholic guts tell me that the ashes of Lent call us much more nearly to attendance in silence "mean"? One thing at a funeral, and something else on a freeway at a Black Lives Matter protest. Symbols require our engagement with them in order for us to wrestle with the question of what exactly they are seeking to express. Even something as simple as a smile can be variously understood depending on the context.

So I wonder what those who distribute and receive Ashes to Go believe that it "means.” For Catholics, at least, it means we’ve bothered to set aside an hour or so and to make the necessary sacrifices to come together in common prayer and confession and resolve to amend our lives “where they are.” That’s a good start. Any symbol can be turned in to a rote formula or a gimmick. Christian symbols are too precious for us to let that happen without pointing it out.

Fr. Mike Byron

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**Dear Friends:**

**Lent Reconciliation Services**

**Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 PM**

All are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation during this Lenten Season. All are welcome. Individual celebration of the sacrament is also available at 4:00 each Saturday, and by appointment.

**Lenten Program with Fr. Mike Byron**

“Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” and “Why Did Jesus have to Rise?”

**Saturday, March 18 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S. 8th St., Mpls.

Cost: $20 including optional noon Mass and lunch at St. Olaf. Please make check payable to the League of Catholic Women and send to 410 Grove St, Minneapolis, MN 55404, or pay online at leagueofcatholicwomen.org.

**P.S. Many thanks for your outstanding response to our request for membership dues. You are a special, appreciative group and we love meeting with you!**

**Women’s Book Club**

**Monday, March 13 at 7:00 PM**

Have you ever thought about coming to the St. Pascal’s Women’s Book Club? Do it this month! We meet in the Founders Room on the 2nd Monday of each month. You can come as often as your schedule allows. This month we will discuss Someone by Alice McDermott and next month, April 10, we’ll discuss John Taymann’s The Colony.

**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers...  

**John Kriegl**

who was recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends, and pray for his soul’s eternal peace.
March Madness Registration Promotion
Join us for March Madness! All students (Preschool–8th Grade) enrolled at St. Pascal’s by St. Patrick’s Day will be entered into a St. Patrick’s Day Lucky Drawing. Don’t delay! Register TODAY to have your child entered into drawings for these great prizes!

- $50 gift certificates to Donald’s Uniform Shop
- $25 gift cards to Green Mill Restaurant
- St. Pascal’s School Spirit Wear
- Hill-Murray Spirit Wear
- And More!

To enroll a child at St. Pascal’s, please complete an online admissions application at: http://mytads.com/a/stpascalsbaylon

Transfer Student Tuition Discount $1,000
All 1st grade – 7th grade students transferring to St. Pascal’s from a public school automatically qualify for a $1,000 discount off the first year tuition at St. Pascal’s; and are eligible for a $500 discount during their second year. Contact the school office to learn more about the transfer student discount.

Interested in learning more about St. Pascal’s School? Please contact the school at 776.0092 ext. 112; or email mary.mcgrath@stpascals.org. Tours are available and transfer students are invited to spend a day with us. Call during school hours to make arrangements.

Preschool-Kindergarten Open House
Saturday, April 22 from 9:00-10:30 AM
Calling all Super Heroes and Princesses ages 2-5 to come to St. Pascal’s School to help us celebrate Earth Day while checking out our school. Be a hero and help save Mother Earth! Dress as your favorite super hero or princess and join the fun doing Earth Day crafts and activities. Come learn more about St. Pascal’s Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs while visiting us for this free, fun and exciting event!

Mission Trip Plant Sale
Sunday, March 12-Sunday, March 26
Support our young people as they learn to be the hands and feet of Christ and take care of your garden needs at the same time! Mission trip participants will be selling bedding plants and hanging baskets from Gerten’s. Order forms are available in the kiosks, on the website or by contacting Kim in the parish office. Plants will be available the weekend of May 7 & 8 at Blessed Sacrament.

Rite of Enrollment
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
This year St. Pascal’s is blessed to have one catechumen (an unbaptized person), Shariff Rasoul, in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This weekend we celebrate a Rite of Enrollment and Recognition with him at the 10:30 AM Mass.

Usually we would be sending Shariff forth to celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on the first Sunday of Lent, but due to scheduling conflicts, we celebrate with him here at St. Pascal’s this weekend. It is our opportunity to surround the catechumen with our prayer and support as he continues his journey toward initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Election is a transition point in the RCIA journey, and after this point the catechumens are referred to as the “elect” to signify their new status. This point is referred to as election “because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts” (RCIA #119). Election is about being chosen by God to be in relationship with God and to continue Christ’s mission in the world. We also recognize candidates—baptized in another tradition and now asking to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Please continue to pray this Lent for Shariff and share in our Easter rejoicing.

St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry—Fridays of Lent from March 3 – April 7
4:30 to 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall (Please use the Flandreau St. entrance)
The “All-You-Can-Eat” menu offers fried and baked cod, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, mac and cheese, dinner roll, coffee/water, and dessert. Milk, pop, bottled water and take-out will be available.

Adults (12 and up): $12.00 | Children (6-11): $5.00 | Children 5 and under: FREE
Proceeds go to purchase equipment, uniforms, and supplies for the St. Pascal’s K-8 Grade School Physical Education program and extracurricular sports activities plus other parish/school events.

St. Pascal’s School Office
School Contact Information
School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email: laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
September - May
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:30 PM
Holidays as announced

Afterschool Emergency Number
For death, dying or anointing of the sick 651.280.9239

Parish Contact Information
Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:30 PM
Holidays as announced

Sacramental Information
Reconciliation
Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment

Baptism
Pre-baptismal classes are required.
To register for classes or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

Marriage
Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

Parish Prayer Line
8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

St. Pascal’s Church in Falcon Heights, Minnesota
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 14</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Tom Grundhoefer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 15</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 16</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 17</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 18</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>+ Don Hensel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 19</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>+ Jack Henninger</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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Parish & School Lenten Project: Caring Hearts for the Homeless

We are collecting the following through Wednesday, April 12

Men’s and women’s items for the Catholic Charities In Kind Warehouse including:

- Deodorant | Lotion | Body Wash

Please drop your items off in the red donation boxes located in the foyer. Thank you for your prayers and positive impact on the lives of those who need it most.

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Gn 12:1-4a, Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Tm 1:8b-10, Mt 17:1-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dn 9:4b-10, Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13, Lk 6:36-38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Is 1:10, 16-20, Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mt 23:1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jer 18:18-20, Ps 31:5-6, 14-16, Mt 20:17-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1:1-4, 6, Lk 16:19-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, Ps 105:16-21, Mt 21:33-43, 45-46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mi 7:14-15, 18-20, Ps 103:1-4, 9-12, Lk 15:1-3, 11-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Sunday</td>
<td>Ex 17:3-7, Ps 95:1-2, 6-9, Rom 5:1-2, 5-8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jn 4:5-42</td>
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</tbody>
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Stewardship of Treasure

Financial Gifts – Week of March 5, 2017
For fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>$13,861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date:</td>
<td>$633,625</td>
<td>$612,000</td>
<td>$21,625</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$226,425</td>
<td>$198,000</td>
<td>$28,425</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: Automatic (electronic) contributions are made on the 1st and 15th of each month and will be recorded with the following Sunday’s collection. Each week our budget requires $17,000 in Sunday stewardship collections and $5,500 in Mortgage (capital campaign) contributions.

Thank you for your generous support!

The Week Ahead

Visit us at www.stpascals.org for more information on upcoming events.

Sunday, March 12—2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
Caring Hearts Parish & School Lenten Project through April 12

Daylight Saving Time starts
8:45am RCIA Rite of Election: CH
After Masses New Member Registration: BH
2:00pm Girl Scouts: CF

Monday, March 13
8:15am School Board Mktg & Enrollment: FR
9:30am Nia: OC
6:30pm Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym
7:00pm Women’s Book Club: FR

Tuesday, March 14
8:15am Bible Study: PC
12:00pm 500 Card Club: PC
6:00pm WC Board Meeting: FR
6:30pm Grace Within Women’s Group: Room 107
7:00pm Parish Lent Reconciliation: CH
7:00pm Bible Study: PC

Wednesday, March 15
9:30am School Mass—All are welcome!
6:30pm P/C First Eucharist Meeting: BH
6:30pm Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105
7:00pm Choir: CR

Thursday, March 16
9:30am Bible Study: PC
6:30pm Scouts 294 Blue & Gold Ceremony: BH, Kit

Friday, March 17—St. Patrick’s Day
4:30pm Fish Fry & Bake Sale: BH, Kit
7:00pm Stations of the Cross: CH

Saturday, March 18
4:30pm RCIA Scrutiny: CH

Sunday, March 19—3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
9:30am Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: BH, Kit
12:00pm Confirmation I: OC

MEETING LOCATION KEY:

BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, LB: Library, OC: Old Church, PC: Parish Conference Room

St. Pascal’s Legacy Society Presentation

Ethical Wills or Legacy Letters: Passing on Your Wisdom and Values to the Next Generation

Tuesday, March 28, from 6:30–8:30 pm in Brioschi Hall

Bill Marcella from the Catholic Community Foundation will give a short overview of the Catholic Community Foundation followed by a presentation on ethical wills. An ethical will or legacy letter is a way to share your values, blessings, life’s lessons, hopes and dreams for the future, love, and forgiveness with your family, friends and community. The Catholic Community Foundation maintains the St. Pascal’s endowment. Please join us for a glass of wine, a light snack, an interesting talk and discussion. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Aeling at 307.8241 or ellenaoeling@gmail.com.

Friends & Family Dinner—“Off to the Races”
Saturday, April 22 from 5:30–9:00 PM

Baker’s Wanted! Please consider providing a dessert (homemade or purchased from your favorite bakery, enough to serve 8-10 people) to be live-auctioned during the Friends & Family event. If interested, please contact Susan Hommes at 738.1610 or shomens@umn.edu.
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Light of the World

Lord of all the nations,
you gather us into your arms
and bless us with your love and mercy.
Give us your eyes, so we may see you
in all peoples,
and respond to the needs of the
most desperate.
Give us your hands to reach across barriers
and repair the wounds wrought by closed
hearts and minds.

Give us your loving heart,
so in our lives we may, as Abram,
do your will
and work to become one community
of the earth.
May the blessings you instill in us
become blessings for all;
and may Christ, the Light of the World
shine on all peoples.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

March 12, 2017
Transfixed or Transfigured

Today’s Readings: Genesis 12:1–4; 2 Timothy 1:8b–10; Matthew 17:1–9. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus are transfigured on the mountaintop. Peter, James, and John are transfixed on the same mountaintop. On this Second Sunday of Lent, we are in awe of all six figures, for we seek to be transfigured, to be changed and enlightened, as are these three giants of the Scriptures. Today’s Gospel also is read at the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6. Each person transfigured on the mountaintop is significant for the season. Moses spent forty days on Sinai, twice, and led the Israelites for forty years through the desert. Elijah spent forty days in the wilderness, in a cave, and is also here with Jesus. The Law, the prophets, and the Messiah did not gain the Light of being transfigured without time in the wilderness, desert, or mountain. They did not gain the Light of being transfigured without being tempted and without being supported through prayer for those days and years.

We are in the early days of our forty days. Are we supporting ourselves with prayer? Are we taking time finding our mountaintop, cave, or wilderness spot? Now is a crucial time for this Lent. If we hope to find the light and find a bit of our transfiguration, we cannot remain simply transfixed and in awe of others on the mountaintop. We need to work at our prayer, our fasting, our wilderness. No longer afraid, as Jesus tells us, we can return to our daily lives knowing that our ancestors in faith sustain us through whatever our wilderness times and places may be.
Monday, March 13
Give in Good Measure
Today’s Gospel reading calls us to forgive and to give generously without judgment. Forgiveness and generosity are constant Lenten themes. Our sinfulness can be outdone by our loving service to others. That is the measure by which God’s love is poured out. Today’s Readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36–38.

Tuesday, March 14
Cleanse Us and We Shall Be White as Snow
Where is my Lenten almsgiving leading me? Am I putting away my misdeeds, as Isaiah directs? Only when the misdeeds are put away will my sins be washed away. Find a center for service and justice in your community and contribute without personal attention or reward. You might devote time to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen or work with a St. Vincent de Paul organization of a local parish. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.

Wednesday, March 15
To Serve or Be Served
The readings today challenge us to a life of service. Humility is to accompany that service, for we are not to seek reward for our service. We need to keep in mind that, as followers of Christ, we have come to “serve not to be served” (Matthew 20:28). Even as we live out our baptismal calling, how much can we give without recognition? Jesus reminds us that our place in the Kingdom is of our doing. We might reflect today on how we can serve someone with prayer and compassion. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.

Thursday, March 16
Simplicity
Abraham and Lazarus remind us even today that societal trappings can blur our priorities. In your home this Lent, set up a simple prayer space, with a cross, a candle, and a Bible or Lenten reflection booklet. When life’s daily demands seem to overwhelm you, take time in this sacred space to center your life on God. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 16:19–31.

Friday, March 17
St. Patrick, Bishop
The first bishop of Ireland, St. Patrick is celebrated today with green, shamrocks, and parties. As is well known, Patrick converted the nation by using a shamrock to tell of the Three Persons in one God. The significance for using a simple shamrock as a teaching tool for the Trinity is a brilliant reminder that God is revealed through nature, a given community’s experiences, and in personal responses to our encounters with God. Today’s Readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–46.

Saturday, March 18
St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Bishop of Jerusalem in the fourth century, Cyril was known for his catechesis to catechumens at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He shepherded his flock with love and care and was diligent in handing on the faith. Be mindful of the catechumens and candidates in your parish, and support them as they prepare to join you in living and celebrating the Catholic faith through worship and service. Welcome them along their journey. Today’s Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.
St. Pascal’s Cub Scout Pack 294

$8/Adults and $5/Kids (14 and under)

Sunday, March 19th

After 8:45am and 10:30am mass

Includes: all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee & juice

All proceeds help fund scout camps, pack activities, achievement awards and community service opportunities. Feel free to find any scout in uniform if you have questions about scouting!

Bring your appetite and support our local Cub Scouts!

Thank you!